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STATE FOR EUR/WE AND PM/PPA:DHOPKINS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/13/2019  
TAGS: [EWWT](#) [MARR](#) [PGOV](#) [PHSA](#) [PHUM](#) [PREL](#) [BE](#)  
SUBJECT: BELGIUM SUPPORTS MORE OPEN PARTICIPATION IN  
CONTACT GROUP ON PIRACY

REF: STATE 66632

Classified By: Acting Political-Economic Counselor Robert Kiene, reasons 1.4(b) and (d).

(C) Poloff delivered reftel demarche regarding expansion of participation in the Contact Group for Piracy off the Coast of Somalia to Peter Van De Velde, Counselor in the Department of Security and Defense Policy in the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on June 30. Van De Velde said that the Government of Belgium does not object to participation by countries that meet the criteria established at the January 14 organizational meeting. However, he warned, however, that a larger Group will make decision-making more difficult.

BUSH

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